

**LOCATION: Johnston Public Library – East Room & Hybrid Zoom Option**

**TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

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**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betsy Akin	Sue Gehling	Cory Turner
Sarah Berndt	Janee Harvey	Richard Whitaker
Diane Brecht	Don Kass	Russell Wood
Rep. Dennis Bush	June Klein-Bacon	Lorrie Young
Teresa Daubitz	Jack Seward	
Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott	Maria Sorensen	

**MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sen. Jeff Edler	Shari O'Bannon	Jeff Sorensen
Rep. Lindsay James	Tim Perkins	

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Linn Adams	Michael Jenkins	John Parmeter
Theresa Armstrong	Charlene Joens	Katie Peck
Kris Bell	Kathy Johnson	Cheryl Plank
Teresa Bomhoff	Bill Kallestad	Liz Puls
Amy Campbell	Todd Lange	Libby Reekers
Rachel Cecil	Aimee Length	Jennifer Robbins
Christy Christenson	Bob Lincoln	Flora Schmidt
Liz Cox	Melissa Loehr	Susan Seehase
Brenda Daily	Brooke Lovelace	Lisa Soder
Wendy DePhillips	Stacie Maass	Teri Tapps
Jim Donoghue	Carrie Malone	Beth Townsend
Tom Eachus	Sheila Martin	Jess Van De Voort
Meghan Freie	Susan Martin	Starla Varrelman
Tami Gilliland	Robin McKee	Ken Wayne
Jodi Hamilton	Mary McKinnell	Karla Webb
Mae Hingtgen	Joyce Morrison	Gano Whetstone
Liza Howard	Bill Ocker	Ryanne Wood

**Materials Referenced:**

*March 17, 2022, MHDS Commission Meeting Minutes*  
*CMHC Adopted and Filed Rules Packet*  
*Multisystemic Therapy PowerPoint Presentation*  
*Iowa Workforce Development PowerPoint Presentation*  
*Children's Board Workforce Recommendations*

**Welcome and Introductions**

Lorrie Young called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and led introductions. Quorum was established with 10 voting members attending virtually and 2 voting members attending in-person.

**Review and Vote on Approval of March 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Rich Whitaker motioned to approve the March 17, 2022, meeting minutes. Don Kass seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Election of Commission Officers**

Rich Whitaker informed the Commission that the Nominations Committee recommended Russell Wood for Commission Chair and Lorrie Young for Vice Chair. Sarah Berndt motioned to approve the slate of officers, and Betsy Akin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed with Lorrie Young abstaining.

**Recognition of Outgoing Commission Members**

Lorrie Young recognized Shari O'Bannon, Timothy Perkins and Maria Sorensen who were leaving the MHDS Commission after serving three years. None of the outgoing Commissioners were in attendance but were thanked for their service to the Commission. Lorrie indicated that their service certificates would be mailed to them.

**Consider Approval of Administrative Rules Regarding IAC 441 Chapter 24, "Accreditation of Providers of Services to Persons with Mental Illness, Intellectual Disabilities or Developmental Disabilities" – Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC)**

Theresa Armstrong presented and summarized the rule package on IAC 441, Chapter 24 related to the Community Mental Health Centers which included public comments received and the response by the Department. Theresa indicated that there was one change made in response to public comment with a definition being added for "functional impairment." It was noted that the rules would be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin a second time and go to the Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC) with an anticipated effective date of July 1, 2022.

Lorrie Young requested a motion to approve the rules for Chapter 24 related to CMHCs as submitted. Don Kass motioned to approve the rules and was seconded by Diane Brecht. There was no discussion. The motion passed and the rules were approved.

**Discussion and Vote on Future Meeting Schedule for MHDS Commission**

There was discussion regarding the MHDS Commission meeting schedule for the rest of 2022 and moving forward. Commissioners discussed the frequency and duration of meetings and whether these meetings should be in person or virtual or a hybrid of both. They also discussed the importance of the work of the Commission as a decision-making body as well as an advisory board. Quorum issues and difficulty in recruitment for board positions due to the frequency and length of meetings were also noted. Finally, there was discussion regarding in-person meetings versus virtual or hybrid (in-person and virtual) meetings. It was noted that

today's hybrid meeting, required a lot of work to set up and very few Commissioners attended in person, which is the preference.

The consensus was to continue to meet monthly, except for November, but to limit in-person meetings to only once per quarter with all other meetings being virtual. The decision was to make the quarterly in-person meetings a full day and focused primarily on informational and educational presentations. These meetings would have a virtual and audio only option available but that it would be for listening and viewing purposes only. Those attending these quarterly meetings virtually would not be able to participate or vote. All other MHDS Commission meetings would be strictly virtual and be shorter in duration focusing on necessary business. Don Kass motioned to approve the new meeting schedule and format and was seconded by Sarah Berndt. There was no additional discussion. The motion was approved.

### **Planning for Future Meetings**

There was discussion regarding the upcoming meetings in May noting that the MHDS Commission had a joint meeting with the Iowa Mental Health Planning Council on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom, and that the regular MHDS Commission meeting was Thursday, May 19, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Johnston Public Library in Johnston, Iowa. It was noted that the May meeting would be the in-person meeting for the second quarter of 2022.

### **Public Comment**

Bill Kallestad, Iowa Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council, commented that the DD Council was looking for nominations, specifically those 18 years old or older who have an intellectual or developmental disability or are a family member of an individual with lived experience. He also noted that the DD Council was a balanced board, so they were specifically looking for male nominees. Those interested should go to the Iowa Talent Bank website to apply. Bill also provided information regarding the Youth Leadership Academy and indicated that more information could be found on the DD Council website.

Liz Cox, Polk County Health Services, commented requesting clarifications from the MHDS Commission and DHS regarding the changes the Polk County Board of Supervisors have made in the governance of the Polk County Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) Region without approval from the MHDS Commission to change the structure of the region. Liz noted that the Polk County Supervisors voted last month to dissolve the functioning MHDS Regional Governing Board eliminating the voting rights of the non-elected officials and appointing the Board of Supervisors the Governing Board. Additional actions have been taken since then including authorizing a payment of services as Supervisors, which are supposed to be managed by a Regional Governing Board. Liz commented that to her knowledge Polk County Health Services are the Regional Administrator on record with the State of Iowa with herself being the Regional CEO on record until a different plan is approved by the MHDS Commission and signed by DHS that a change has occurred. Neither of which has happened. Liz indicated that she has requested meetings with both the MHDS Commission and DHS but

have not met at this point. Liz noted that this is a confusing and unique circumstance but would like some action taken or guidance about these transitions and what is authorized and not authorized.

It was noted that DHS reviews changes to the MHDS Regions Policies and Procedures prior to those changes coming to the MHDS Commission for review. During this review process DHS works with the Region to make corrections or clarify any changes. At this time, DHS is still engaged in this review process regarding the changes made to the policies and procedures for the Polk County MHDS Region.

**The MHDS Commission broke for lunch from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

### **Multisystemic Therapy & Functional Family Therapy as Evidence-Based Practice**

Rich Whitaker, Ph. D and Joyce Morrison, LISW, Vera French Community Mental Health Center introduced themselves and provided a presentation on Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and its implementation, funding, and success at the CMHC, as well as the estimated startup costs of this evidence-based program. It was noted that MST is the most evidence-based program practiced in the United States. One of the reasons for this is the protocol that maintains fidelity to the program.

There was brief discussion regarding the legislative interest in MST and the type of service rates being discussed. Rich and Joyce shared their contact information if individuals were interested in more information. Richard K. Whitaker, [whitakerr@verafranchmhc.org](mailto:whitakerr@verafranchmhc.org), 563-888-6222 or Joyce Morrison, LISW, [morrisonj@verafranchmhc.org](mailto:morrisonj@verafranchmhc.org), 563-888-6222. The MHDS Commission requested to revisit this topic as there was more information to be discussed and plenty of interest in the topic.

### **MHDS Update**

#### **MHDS Facilities**

Cory Turner provided a brief update on the MHDS facilities. Cory noted that all required tasks mandated at the Boys State Training School in Eldora due to the court order have been completed and documents submitted. The facility has made significant changes including opening an intensive treatment program for the most difficult youth.

Independence Mental Health Institute had their Joint Commission survey, which is a long intensive process and is like the survey that was done at Cherokee Mental Health Institute three years ago.

Recruitment at all the facilities is still problematic with recruitment of nursing staff being the most difficult.

Cory discussed the need for expansion at the Civil Commitment Unit for Sexual Offenders (CCUSO) due to the continued census increase. Cory noted that they are in the process of expanding which will take time and effort to ensure the process go as smoothly as possible. Theresa Armstrong

Cory informed the Commission that late on April 6, 2022, DHS received notice from the Governor's Office on the decision to close the Glenwood State Resource Center. This decision was based on a variety of factors with a large one being that DHS is unable to meet the Department of Justice (DOJ) requirements. These requirements are very proscriptive and the huge issues with recruitment and retainment of front line and clinical staff with GRC being down 120 front line staff, only 7 nurses to treat 152 clients, make it impossible to meet the DOJ requirements. On April 7, 2022, DHS announced publicly and to the leadership body, and then held staff town halls in Glenwood about how the closure was going to operate and the extended closure plan. Retention components were discussed at these meetings including retention packages. At this point DHS is looking at less than 50 of the 152 clients currently being served at GRC being transferred to Woodward Resource Center (WRC.) Who exactly has not been determined, but it will be those who require the most cares whether medical or behavioral. The other individuals will be transitioning into the community. There have been conversations with the MHDS Regions and external providers as well as guardians. Cory noted that information regarding the DOJ resource center investigation can be found on the DHS website: <https://dhs.iowa.gov/doj> as well as the timeline of the DOJ investigation into the SRCs: [https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/GRC\\_DOJ\\_Timeline.pdf?042120221836](https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/GRC_DOJ_Timeline.pdf?042120221836).

#### Health and Human Services (HHS) Alignment

Teresa Armstrong noted that the Final Change Package for the HHS Alignment was released at the end of March and can be found on the website: [www.hhsalignment.iowa.gov](http://www.hhsalignment.iowa.gov). The change package indicates that DHS and IDPH will be moving forward with integration and alignment of the two agencies into one. There is legislation pending in the Health and Human Services Appropriation bill that give the agencies the legal powers to move forward with the changes. The package indicates nine "divisions" across operations of administration with each division looking at the table of organization (TO). There are no names currently on the TO as the focus is to group projects and programs together, as appropriate.

#### Requests for Proposals (RFP)

The RFP for a Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health (CEBH) was awarded to the University of Iowa Center for Disabilities and Development (CDD). This RFP requested a contractor to manage and understand what evidence-based practices (EBP) are happening in Iowa and where to go with them. This lines up with what is required of MHDS Regions.

An RFP has been issued for an Office of Recovery Supports (ORS) which is a rename of what was previously the Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA). This office helps to give individuals with lived experience a way to get involved in policy decision making. Input is shared with the ORS who then brings it to MHDS for consideration. The award for this RFP will be announce on June 15, 2022, with the contract beginning sometime in July 2022.

#### Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has issued two funding opportunities for CCBHCs. Unlike previous grants, interested parties must submit a

letter from the State Mental Health Authority with their applications recognizing their application and indicating that they meet the standards expected in the state.

#### Pending Legislation

HF2578 – HHS Appropriations Bill, which includes appropriations for DHS, IDPH and the Iowa Department on Aging.

HF2167 – change in the definition of Autism, conforming more closely to the definition in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual (DSM.)

SF2324 – related to the MHDS Regions and their cash reserves or ending fund balance, which is currently has legislation that would bring that down to 5% by FY2024, this legislation changes it to 10% by SFY2024.

HF2546 – requires DHS to look at tiered reimbursement rates for inpatient psychiatric services based on level of acuity. There have been serious discussions between DHS, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) and the Iowa Hospital Association (IHA) about what these rates would look like and what they need to be.

SF2216 – developing intensive psychiatric services at the MHIs for adolescents and children.

SF513 – related to mental health and substance use disorder and housing crisis reports that law enforcement encounters must remain confidential

HF2529 – mental health provider enrollment repayment program – psychiatrists, psychiatric ARNPs, psychologists, prescribing psychologists, social workers, mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists.

HF2580 – reorganization of the Area Education Agencies (AEA) reducing the number of AEAs.

There was discussion regarding CCBHCs and how does Iowa move forward with implementing a state program. The possibility of a future presentation and discussion on CCBHCs in Iowa was discussed.

#### **Workforce Initiatives Presentation**

Beth Townsend, Director, Iowa Workforce Development introduced herself and shared information from her presentation regarding recommendations from the Children's Mental Health Workforce Workgroup. This presentation included barriers to developing a skilled workforce as well as long and short-term recommendations. It was noted that some of the recommendations were encompassed by some of the legislation proposed this session including the expansion of the College Student Aid loan forgiveness program. Another proposal was related to the expansion of residencies for psychiatrists at the University of Iowa. It was noted that there is a shortage of social workers, behavioral health intervention specialist (BHIS), nurses, psychiatrists and therapists and an insufficient number of individuals going into those career fields. The Last-Dollar Scholarship program, which was started a few years ago, covers any remaining gap between federal and state grant/scholarships and tuition and qualified fees at state community colleges. Currently there are five times the number of students who use these scholarships for nursing degrees versus any other career field. 96 percent of individuals who received Last-Dollar Scholarships are working with 86 percent of those individuals are working in Iowa.

There was discussion regarding the shortage of workers in the workforce and the need to reduce administrative burden or streamline regulatory requirements (licensing and supervision, credentialing, documentation, etc.) to help with retaining employees and avoiding burnout. One example given was the amount of documentation required by the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to receive and retain authorization for services. There was discussion regarding the credentialing clearinghouse, CAUH, and ensuring that all payors accept CAUH credentialing for providers, so it doesn't have to be repeated for each payor. There was discussion about tying loan forgiveness to those who are willing to work for non-profit or safety net providers. There was discussion regarding the need to recruit more individuals to move to Iowa and recent marketing campaigns. There was also discussion regarding the refugee population and what is needed to get these individuals job ready with the skill sets they have. There was discussion regarding the use of non-compete clauses and how they worsen workforce shortages within the mental health space. There was discussion regarding soft skill development for individuals. There was discussion regarding employers looking at ways to be more flexible such as work four ten-hour days versus five eight-hour days. There was also discussion work-based learning for high school students and upcoming projects. There was discussion regarding childcare and how it plays with workforce shortages as well as current and upcoming projects to help assist in this area.

**Public Comment**

No comment

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy DePhillips.